served by Sir Ganga Ram Employees Union on the Hospital management was received by the Delhi Administration. The strike notice raised a 27-point charter of general demands relating among others, to regularisation of contract workers and temporary employees, staff quarters for nurses and other employees, overtime allowance, reinstatement of employees discharged from service during 1966 to 1986, free medical ambulance facilities for family members of the employees, etc. On receiving the copy of the strike notice, the Conciliation Machinery intervened on 16th July, 1986. Till 25-7-1986, four meetings have been held in an effort to resolve the dispute. Conciliation efforts are continuing.

Delay in the issue of passports by the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam

821. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for passports are pending clearance at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam;

(a) how many applications for pasding for (i) more than three months and (ii) for more than six months;

(c) how many complaints have been received against the office with regard to the issue and renewal of passports during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) how many among the staff are there for more than three years; and

(e) whether Government propose to transfer those staff who have been posted there for more than three years to improve the service; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN): (a) 12685 applications for passports were pending clearance as on 30-6-1986 at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam.

(b) (i) 2060 applications for passports were pending for more than three months and (ii) 60 applications for passports were pending for more than six months.

(c) Number of complaints received against the office with regard to the issue and ronewal of passports during the last three years as follows:—

Year	Issue of passports	Renewal of passports
1983 . . .	5	2
1984 . . .	6	4
1985 . . .	14	3
1986 . . . (Up to 30th June, 1986)	6	1

(d) One group 'A' officer, 50 group 'C' officials and 7 group 'D' officials are working in the Regional Passport office, Ernakulam for over three years.

(e) No, Sir; a fixed tenure of three years has not been laid down for transfer of all staff categories in the Recruitment Rules of the Central Passport Organisation. Group 'A' and 'B' Gazetted Officers are generally transferred from one passport office to another after completion of three years stay at one station, except due to exigencies of public service or on compassionate grounds. Moreover, officers superannuating within a period of three yearss are retained/ transferred as far as possible near their home-town. As regards Group 'C' clerical staff, they are generally transferred on their promotion or due to reduction of posts in a particular office or when it becomes necessary to rransfer them in public interest.

Bank dacoities in Bombay

822. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bank dacoities which took place in Bombay since March, 1986;